

To: Ecosystem Roundtable Members

From: Cindy Darling

Re: Prospect Island

Summary: At the last Ecosystem Roundtable, the USACE presented a request for \$2 million for funding for levee repairs at the Prospect Island project. These questions concerned the biological benefit, the cost-effectiveness of habitat restoration techniques, and the potential impacts identified by neighboring land owners. CALFED staff have polled the 1998 Integration Panel on the biological benefit and USACE staff have worked on questions to the other questions.

Roundtable Action: The Roundtable will be asked to review and comment on the proposed funding for Prospect Island.

Background: The USACE and their partners have been working to develop the Prospect Island project for several years. They are ready to move to construction next year pending availability of funds. However, last winter the levees around the island breached and the island flooded. The USACE has requested funding for repair of the levees so that they could go to construction next year.

The Roundtable raised questions about the cost-effectiveness of the proposal because they were concerned that construction in the "wet" may ultimately be more cost effective than fixing the levees, constructing in the "dry", and then flooding the island again.

The Roundtable also raised concerns about on-going issues with neighboring landowners on Ryer Island. These landowners were concerned that the project could result in additional seepage onto their property. The USACE has been working with the Ryer Island owners to address these concerns. Failure to fix the levees could also potentially affect the adjacent landowners because, without additional reinforcement, the remaining levees around the flooded island will continue to erode.

The Roundtable also requested that the biological benefits of the project be assessed by the technical experts on the Integration Panel.

Tom Zuckerman has met with the USACE and asked staff to forward his letter on the project to the Roundtable for consideration.

The Integration Panel is still reviewing the information and a recommendation from them will be available by Friday.